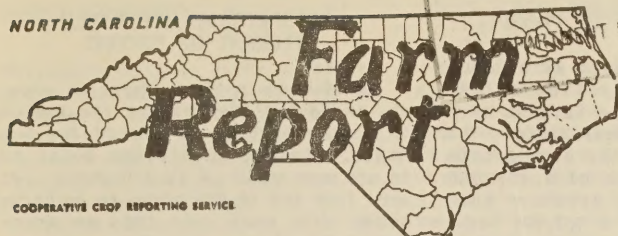


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NORTH CAROLINA



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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No. 112

RALEIGH, N. C.

JUNE 16, 1952

JUNE 1, 1952 GENERAL FARM REPORT

JUNE 1 CROP OUTLOOK GENERALLY FAVORABLE

Crop prospects in North Carolina, as of June 1, were generally favorable. Soils over the State ranged from "very dry" to "too wet". The major dry areas are northwest mountain counties and southeastern coastal counties. Damage to crops and delay to planting has been much more serious in the southeastern coastal counties.

With the exception of cool nights, temperatures have been normal or above. Cotton stands were reduced some by cool nights, especially cotton which had just been thinned to the desired stand. Cool temperatures also increased the damage to tobacco from flea beetles. Early morning temperatures during two days of the week ending May 17 dropped into the 40's in most sections.

Transplanting of the flue-cured tobacco crop is complete for all practical purposes. Growers obtained better stands than usual with re-setting requirements normal or below. The crop has suffered from dry weather in some areas since June 1 and premature "buttoning out" is evident on some farms.

Transplanting of the burley crop is nearing completion. Dry weather in part of the burley belt has delayed transplanting and made stands more difficult to obtain.

The stand of corn in many areas is below normal. Stands in some areas were reduced because of cold and wet soils at time of germination. In other areas, germination was reduced

(Continued on Page 2)

PEACH PROSPECTS UNCHANGED

Conditions during May continued generally favorable for the State's peach crop. A combined production of 1,798,000 bushels from the commercial and farm crops was in prospect on June 1, the same as a month earlier.

(Continued on Page 3)

MAY BROILER PLACEMENTS SHOW SEASONAL DROP

Hatcherymen and dealers serving the Central and Western commercial broiler producing areas of North Carolina placed a total of 4,181,000 chicks with growers during May. This was a decline of 22 percent from the 5,355,000 broiler chicks placed in the two areas during April this year. This drop in placements was mostly a reflection of the discouraging demand-price situation that developed the second week of May and continued through the following week.

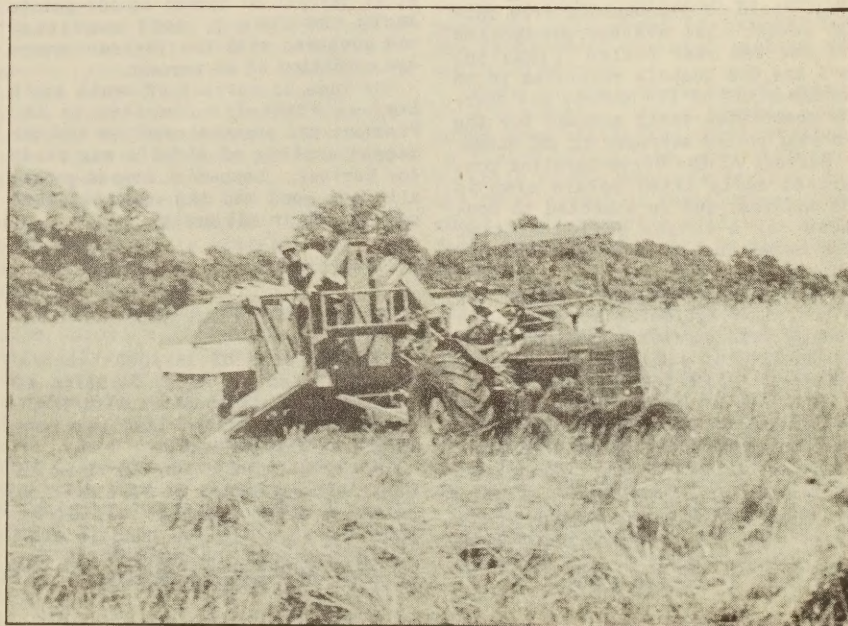
Commercial hatcheries serving these areas placed a total of 5,595,000 eggs in incubators during May, a decline of 14 percent from the April set of 6,540,000 eggs.

MILK PRODUCTION FOR MAY CONTINUES SEASONAL INCREASE

Milk produced on farms in North Carolina during May was considerably up from the preceding month. Based on June 1 reports from farmers and dairymen May production totaled 150 million pounds. This was the second largest May milk production of record being exceeded by the record high 155 million pounds produced in May of last year. Many factors have attributed to the higher level of milk production realized for this State during recent years; the principal of these being the adoption of improved pasture crops and greater attention given to management and breeding practices.

(Continued on page 2)

NORTH CAROLINA WHEAT HARVEST GETTING UNDER WAY



JUNE 1 CROP OUTLOOK (Continued)

by dry soils. Insects such as cut worms, wire worms and shatter bugs have also reduced stands.

Most of the cotton crop has been chopped. The stand of cotton varies considerably between areas. Stands in some areas were reduced by cool nights and wet soils at time of germination. Winds in the sandy areas during the first part of May also reduced stands. Stands were also reduced or destroyed in some counties by hail. The worst hail damage occurred in Cleveland County where it was necessary to replant an estimated 8,000 acres.

Reports from southeastern counties indicate that boll weevil infestation is underway.

June 1 prospects point to a record wheat yield. A higher proportion of the total acreage was seeded with Atlas 50 and 66. The crop appears more uniform than last year with little damage reported from insects.

Prospects for the oats crop are below last year due to poorer stands and freeze damage on the late fall seeded acreage.

IRISH POTATO PROSPECTS GOOD

Reports from North Carolina's commercial early Irish potato growers as of June 1 indicate a production of 3,608,000 bushels. This production would mean an average yield of 195 bushels per acre from the State's 18,500 acres of commercial potatoes. Production prospects are better than a month earlier due to improved weather conditions.

In 1951 there were 3,885,000 bushels produced in the State at an average yield of 210 bushels from 18,500 acres. The average production for the ten year period (1941-50) is 5,394,000 bushels resulting in an average yield of 171 bushels per acre. The commercial early acreage for the ten year period averaged 32,100 acres.

Harvest of the North Carolina commercial early Irish potato crop is now underway and is expected to continue for a longer period of time than usual due to late planting and replanting.

California's commercial early crop is currently estimated at 25,200,000 bushels compared with 21,805,000 bushels produced in 1951 and the ten year average of 23,610,000 bushels.

Total U. S. production of late spring commercial early Irish potatoes is estimated at 36,451,000 bushels from 123,250 acres. This compares with 1951 production of 33,417,000 bushels from 114,600 acres and the ten year average production of 37,646,000 bushels from an average acreage of 173,690 acres.

RECORD WHEAT CROP IN PROSPECT

Reports from growers as of June 1 indicate North Carolina's 1952 wheat crop will be the largest ever produced in the Tar Heel State. The June 1 condition of the crop points to a total production of 9,408,000 bushels, 7.4 percent greater than the previous record of 8,763,000 bushels set last year.

A record high yield of 24 bushels per acre is expected from 392,000 acres this year. This compares with the 23-bushel yield realized from 381,000 acres in 1951.

The principal factors contributing to the unusually good prospects for the crop were mild winter temperatures, excellent stooling and the high percentage of Atlas varieties seeded this year.

For the most part wheat looks good in all areas of the State. Stands are good and generally free of insect and disease damage.

By June 1, the crop was rapidly approaching maturity and combining is expected to become general by mid-June.

The 1952 U. S. production of all wheat (total fall and spring-sown crops) is forecast at 1,326 million bushels, second only to the record crop of 1947 of 1,359 million bushels. A crop this size would be about one-third larger than the 987 million crop produced in 1951 and would exceed the 10-year average production by 241 million bushels.

HAY PROSPECTS GOOD

Current prospects point to a good hay crop in North Carolina this year. The June 1 condition of all hays at 84 percent of normal is 10 points above the June 1, 1951 condition and compares with the 10-year average condition of 80 percent.

By June 1, harvest of small grain hay was virtually complete in the Piedmont and eastern counties and the second cutting of alfalfa was ready for harvest. Lespedeza stands generally are good and the crop has made good growth in all areas.

GOOD PEAR CROP

A pear crop of 168,000 bushels was estimated for North Carolina as of June 1. This compares with 154,000 bushels produced last year and 73,000 bushels in 1950.

National production for 1952 is presently estimated at 30.1 million bushels, only slightly different from the 30.0 million bushels produced last year and the 1941-50 average of 30.3 million bushels.

PROSPECTIVE RYE YIELD
HIGHEST OF RECORD

As of June 1, North Carolina growers indicated they expect rye yields to be the highest of record for the State. June 1 conditions point to an average yield of 15.0 bushels per acre from the 14,000 acres to be harvested this year. In 1951 an average yield of 14.0 bushels were realized from 15,000 acres.

The acreage of rye harvested in North Carolina has declined rapidly since reaching a peak of 90,000 acres in 1918. However, yields have increased sharply since 1918 when growers harvested an average of 5.5 bushels per acre.

Across the Nation the smallest rye crop since 1934 is now in prospect. The June 1 forecast of 16,974,000 bushels compares with 17,795,000 bushels a month ago and with last year's crop of 21,410,000 bushels.

The average yield per acre estimated on June 1 is only slightly below the final yield of 1951, but the acreage remaining for harvest this year is only 1,381,000 acres, the smallest on record.

This total is down 20 percent from the 1,733,000 acres harvested last year, and compares with the 10-year average of 2,294,000 acres.

MILK PRODUCTION (Continued)

Milk production per cow in herds averaged 415 pounds during May compared with 376 pounds during April and 434 pounds (the record high for any month to date) during May last year.

An estimated 361,000 milk cows were on farms during the month. This was no change from the April number but was 4,000 above May a year ago.

MAY EGG PRODUCTION
SHOWS SEASONAL DROP

After reaching its seasonal peak in April egg production in North Carolina during May dipped downward, following the usual pattern of production for the State. Farm flocks produced a total of 144 million eggs during May - a decline of 3 percent from April production.

There were an estimated 8,414,000 layers on farms during May. This was a decline of 3 percent from April and was the principal cause for the decline in total eggs produced.

The rate of lay for May was 1,714 eggs per 100 layers compared with 1,716 eggs during April and 1,686 for May a year ago.

PEACH PROSPECTS (Continued)

Shipments of some early varieties from the Sandhills was underway by the first of June. In view of the way the crop has developed during the current season, growers feel that the quality of the crop will be somewhat better than last year.

Comparative production data are shown in the table below.

PEACH PRODUCTION JUNE 1

STATE	INDICATED 1952	1951	1950
THOUSAND BUSHELS			
N. C.....	1,798	1,806	324
S. C.....	4,032	4,980	360
GA.....	3,570	3,975	810
FLA.....	21	24	14
ALA.....	630	256	220
MISS.....	512	255	183
ARK.....	1,701	1,044	1,650
LA.....	110	63	54
OKLA.....	308	413	302
TEXAS....	429	696	472
10 STATES	13,111	13,512	4,389

U. S. FARM EMPLOYMENT UP SEASONALLY

U. S. farm employment was 10,083,000 for the week of April 20-26, up seasonally by 1,293,000 from a month earlier. However, about 300,000 fewer persons were working on farms than a year earlier. For the last three and a half years, farm employment has been decreasing from a year earlier, continuing the long time trend which was broken briefly at the end of World War II.

Wholesale prices have been stable over the last 4 months; but compared with a year earlier, the level in the week ending May 20 was down about 5 percent.

CASH RECEIPTS UP

Cash receipts from farm marketings in North Carolina during January and February of this year totaled \$57,354,000 -- \$29,947,000 from crops and \$27,407,000 from livestock and products. These total receipts are 22 percent above the \$47,104,000 received during the first two months of 1951, of which \$23,969,000 came from crops and \$23,135,000 came from livestock and products.

For the Nation, farmers received 6.7 billion dollars from marketings during the first three months of 1952, 4 percent more than a year earlier.

TRUCK CROP PROSPECTS FAVORABLE

SNAP BEANS: North Carolina's late spring snap bean crop is currently estimated at 502,000 bushels. This compares with 384,000 bushels produced in 1951 and the 10 year average production of 393,000 bushels. Harvest began the week of May 19 and should reach volume proportions during the first week in June. In most areas the quality is good but dry weather is a serious threat to the crop.

CABBAGE: Reports from Tar Heel cabbage growers as of June 1 indicate production from the State's 2,150 acres of late spring cabbage as 14,000 tons -- an average yield of 6.5 tons per acre. Last year's production totalled 15,600 tons from 2,400 acres for an average yield of 6.5 tons. Harvest was nearing completion June 1 and will be virtually over by June 10. Quality and stands were not too good in some sections but there has been a strong demand for the crop and growers generally have received very favorable prices.

CUCUMBERS: June 1 condition reports on North Carolina's fresh market cucumber crop point to a total production of 413,000 bushels or an average yield of 70 bushels per acre from 5,900 acres. The 1951 production was 454,000 bushels from the same acreage for an average yield of 77 bushels per acre. The 1941-50 average production is 406,000 bushels from 5,450 acres.

For the late spring group of states (including North Carolina) production is estimated at 2,153,000 bushels-- 5 percent above last year's production of 2,053,000 bushels and 14 percent greater than the 1941-50 average production.

GREEN PEPPERS: Reports from North Carolina growers indicate 4,000 acres of green peppers will be harvested this year -- a decrease of 9 percent from the 4,400 acres harvested in 1951. June 1 condition reports point to a yield of 140 bushels per acre which if realized would mean a production of 560,000 bushels. In 1951, 616,000 bushels were produced with an average yield of 140 bushels per acre.

Total production for the early summer group of states (including North Carolina) is estimated at 1,033,000 bushels -- up nearly 4 percent from last year.

STRAWBERRIES: Harvest of the North Carolina strawberry crop was virtually complete June 1. Production from the State's 2,200 acres is estimated at 154,000 crates (24 qt.) -- a yield of 70 crates per acre. This year's production compares with 209,000 crates produced last year when an average yield of 95 crates per acre was realized from 2,200 acres.

Total production for the mid-spring group of states is expected

to be 5,335,000 crates from a total of 61,330 acres. This compares with last year's production of 5,402,000 crates from 65,550 acres.

WATERMELONS: According to reports from growers 11,000 acres of watermelons will be available for harvest in North Carolina this year. Condition reports as of June 1 indicate an average yield of 220 melons per acre and a total production of 2,420,000 melons. Last year 2,300,000 melons were produced on 10,000 acres -- an average yield of 230 melons per acre.

CANTALOUPS: According to growers reports 4,500 acres of cantaloups are being grown for harvest in North Carolina this year. June 1 condition reports indicate a production of 225,000 crates -- a yield of 50 crates per acre. Production last year was 196,000 crates from the State's 4,900 acres with an average yield of 40 crates per acre.

As of June 1 the crop was generally in good condition. In some areas the vines were running and blooming and first harvest is expected around July 4.

PERCENTAGE OF TENANT-OPERATED FARMS ON DECLINE

The decline in percentage of farms operated by tenants from 42 percent in 1930 to 27 percent in 1940 and to something less than that today -- actually has wiped out the increase in tenancy that had developed over the preceding five or six decades.

Since 1930 the trend has been toward an increase in the percentage of owner-operated farms. Had the downward trend which had been in effect for more than 50 years prior to 1930 continued we would now have only about 55 percent of all farms owner-operated instead of nearly 75 percent.

Some tenants have become part or full owners. Other tenants have found more attractive opportunities in fields other than agriculture. In spite of the absolute decline in the total number of farms, there are about a quarter of a million more farms operated by owners to-day than in 1930.

A study of the tenure trend will show a tendency for ownership to decline with industrial depressions and to strengthen with prosperity. The sharp uptrend after 1932 must be associated with the agricultural-industrial recovery programs of the 1930's and with the growth of mechanization and productivity that the improved farm income made possible. The net result is relatively more private ownership, more private enterprise, and less absentee ownership.

FARM REPORT

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S. R. Newell, Assistant Chief

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FARM REPORT

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MAY WEATHER SUMMARY

May in North Carolina was a month of much sunshine, light rainfall, and a few violent local hail and windstorms. There were no lengthy fair-weather periods such as occurred in April, but the low pressure storms and accompanying weather fronts which passed through or near the State frequently during May affected North Carolina weather rather mildly except for scattered local storms. The most widespread stormy weather occurred on the 10th, when low pressure moved up the Ohio Valley. Violent thunderstorms, accompanied by high winds and some hail, were reported from localities in the mountains, the Piedmont, and the Coastal Plain.

May of 1952 averaged warm, from one to two degrees above long-term averages for May. The first ten days were consistently like June; then a brief cool spell was followed by a mid-month warm period. A cool turn around the 20th brought temperatures back near normal, where they remained the rest of the month. At most places the 6th was the hottest day, the mercury reaching 90 degrees over half the State. Ninety-degree readings were again observed during the first few days following the middle of the month. The coolest weather occurred on a few clear mornings just before mid-month, when the mercury generally reached the forties. No frost occurred outside the mountains.

Rainfall during May was as showery and variable as it commonly is during the mid-summer months. The warm spell, at the beginning of the month was also a dry spell, with little or no rain falling during the first eight to ten days. After that showers came frequently, but were light in some areas and heavy in others. Totals for the month ranged from less than an inch to more than seven inches, averaging around three inches. Heaviest rains occurred in the central Coastal Plain, and at scattered localities in the Southern Piedmont.

NORTH CAROLINA & UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER APRIL 1951 - 1952 1/

SPECIES	NORTH CAROLINA				UNITED STATES			
	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT		NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT	
	1951 2/	1952	1951 2/	1952	1951 2/	1952	1951 2/	1952
	THOUS. HEAD		THOUS. LBS.		THOUS. HEAD		THOUS. LBS.	
CATTLE..	5.9	7.6	4,666	6,196	1,227.3	1,308.0	1,195,634	1,265,861
CALVES..	4.1	4.0	708	620	677.2	702.1	117,585	126,831
SHEEP & LAMBS..	.2	-	15	-	724.8	1,031.6	74,377	104,838
HOGS....	48.0	61.0	10,209	12,718	6,110.6	6,563.7	1,445,717	1,516,505

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter. 2/ Revised

HOG SLAUGHTER CONTINUES AT RECORD HIGH

A total of 61,000 head of hogs was slaughtered in North Carolina's commercial plants during the month of April. This was the largest number of hogs slaughtered for any month since estimates were started in 1946. Smaller hogs were being slaughtered however, with the total liveweight of all hogs slaughtered only the third largest of record. A total

of 7,600 head of cattle were slaughtered during the month, a gain of 13 percent over the previous month and 29 percent above April a year ago.

Calves slaughtered during the month totaled 4,000 head. This was an increase of 11 percent from the 3,600 head slaughtered in March but was 2 percent fewer calves than were slaughtered during April last year.

NORTH CAROLINA - INCHES OF RAINFALL DURING MAY, 1952

